

is crazy. We cannot allow it, and we need a health care bill of rights to protect patients, to protect people, to make sure they get the care they need. You can have good management and still put quality health care first.

So there's a huge agenda out there. What I want you to go out there and say to your friends and neighbors and fellow Californians, who have been so good to me and the First Lady and the Vice President, is, "Look where we are now. Look where we were in 1992. Don't just look even at the budget surplus or the economy. Look at all these things." Ideas drive action and get results, good or bad. Now, we all have things happen that are beyond our control, and I don't claim full credit for every good thing that's happened in America. You and the other American people deserve most of the credit. You get up and lead your lives every day, and you've done things that make sense and do good.

But you know as well as I do that we wouldn't have elections and give people authority to make decisions if the decisions didn't amount to anything. It matters. So the first thing I want you to say to somebody who says, "Well, I'm too conservative to vote for Barbara Boxer," or, "I'm a Republican," or "I'm this," say, "Look, you're a Californian. You're an American. Look where you are now. Look where you were then. Their ideas were right. They put them in. They had good consequences, and they've got good ideas for the future." This is about progress over politics.

Then you ought to talk about these things that Barbara talked about for the future and ask people to vote as American citizens in this election, for their children and their grandchildren. And if you do that, she will have a great victory, California will have a great victory, and it will certainly be the right thing for America.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Federal Communications Commission Decision on the E-rate

June 12, 1998

I applaud the decision by the Federal Communications Commission to move forward with the "e-rate"—a critical initiative to connect our schools, libraries, and rural health centers to the Internet. Although I had urged that the e-rate be fully funded, I remain committed to the goal of ensuring that every child has access to the tools they need to compete in the 21st century.

The e-rate will help create opportunity in the information age for children and communities all over America. Together with our Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, the e-rate will ensure that for the first time in our Nation's history, a child in the most isolated inner city or rural town will have access to the same universe of knowledge as a child in the most affluent suburb. Parents will be able to communicate more frequently with teachers and keep up with the progress of their child in school. Our children will be "technologically literate" and better prepared for the high-tech, high-wage jobs our economy is creating in record numbers.

I call upon all Members of Congress to support the FCC's decision. I will steadfastly oppose any effort to pull the plug on the e-rate and our children's future or to thwart the FCC's ability to move forward with this initiative.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Reception for Representative Darlene Hooley in Portland, Oregon

June 12, 1998

Thank you. Thank you very, very much. Stand up here, Darlene. You know, on my body clock it is 1:35—[*laughter*—and Alexis and Darlene are hard acts to follow. [*Laughter*] I must say, I'm sorry that Alexis had to miss the Shania Twain concert, but if Shania